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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/036,054	12/31/2001	Clifford A. Pickover	YOR920010488US1	3936
35526	7590	03/25/2005		
DUKE. W. YEE YEE & ASSOCIATES, P.C. P.O. BOX 802333 DALLAS, TX 75380			EXAMINER BOUTAH, ALINA A	
			ART UNIT 2143	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/036,054

Applicant(s)

PICKOVER ET AL.

Examiner

Alina N Boutah

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-81 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,999,932 issued to Paul.

Regarding claim 1, Paul teaches a method in a data processing system for marking particular types of communications, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a database of a plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, wherein each of said plurality of identifiers identifies a particular type of communication (figure 1: 102; col. 1, lines 9-20; col. 3, lines 37-52)

receiving a communication (abstract; col. 3, lines 54-64);

determining if said communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers (abstract; col. 2, lines 20-30); and

in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said plurality of different identifiers, marking said communication (abstract; col. 2, lines 40-47; col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 11).

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Regarding claim 2, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forwarding said marked communication (col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 11).

Regarding claim 3, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a communication within a server computer system intended to be received by a recipient's computer system (figure 2; abstract; col. 3, lines 54-64; col. 6, lines 51-65);

determining within a server computer system if said communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers (abstract; col. 2, lines 20-30);

in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said plurality of different identifiers, marking, utilizing said server computer system, said communication (abstract; col. 2, lines 40-47; col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 11); and

forwarding said marked communication from said server computer system to said recipient's client computer system (col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 11).

Regarding claim 4, Paul teaches the method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

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receiving a communication within a service bureau in a server computer system intended to be received by a recipient's computer system (col. 1, lines 22-54; figure 2; abstract; col. 3, lines 54-64; col. 6, lines 51-65);

determining within said service bureau in said server computer system if said communication includes one of said plurality of different identifiers (abstract; col. 2, lines 20-30);

in response to a determination that said communication does include one of said plurality of different identifiers, marking, utilizing said service bureau in said server computer system, said communication (abstract; col. 2, lines 40-47; col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 11); and

forwarding said marked communication from said service bureau in said server computer system to said recipient's client computer system (col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 11).

Regarding claim 5, Paul teaches the method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of compensating said service bureau (col. 5, line 51).

Regarding claim 6, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, wherein each of said plurality of identifiers identifies an unwanted communication (abstract).

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Regarding claim 7, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of deleting marked communications before said marked communications are forwarded to their intended recipients (col. 5, lines 18-32).

Regarding claim 8, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

in response to a determination that said communication does not include one of said plurality of different identifiers, forwarding said communication (col. 7, lines 26-40);

determining whether said communication was deleted without being opened (col. 5, lines 18-31);

in response to a determination that said communication was deleted without being opened, determining an identifier included within said communication (col. 5, lines 33-51); and

storing said identifier as one of said plurality of identifiers in said database (col. 5, lines 33-51).

Regarding claim 9, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of publishing said plurality of identifiers included within said database (figure 4).

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Regarding claim 10, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of subscribing to a service that provides said plurality of identifiers (col. 5, lines 18-32).

Regarding claim 11, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forwarding said communication to a special folder designated for receiving communication that are said particular type (col. 9, lines 8-19).

Regarding claim 12, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of notifying a sender of said marked communication to discontinue communications to an intended recipient of said marked communication (col. 4, lines 41-58).

Regarding claim 13, Paul teaches the method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of blocking further communications from said sender (col. 1, lines 43-54).

Regarding claim 14, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, each one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a sender (col. 9, lines 20-29).

Regarding claim 15, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a total number of times communications have been received from a sender who transmitted said marked communication (col. 5, lines 5-17).

Regarding claim 16, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular text string (col. 4, lines 34-40).

Regarding claim 17, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a number of intended recipients (figure 2: 201).

Regarding claim 18, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular sender (figure 2).



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Regarding claim 19, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular return address (figure 5).

Regarding claim 20, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular language (col. 9, lines 7-19).

Regarding claim 21, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing said database of said plurality of different distinguishing identifiers, one of said plurality of identifiers identifying a particular Internet service provider source (col. 1, lines 31-42).

Regarding claim 22, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said communication comprises at least one of e-mail, instant messaging, XML messages, EDI messages, facsimiles, telephone communications, commercial messages, postal mail, packaging material, or digital images (abstract).

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Regarding claim 23, Paul teaches the method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of determining if said communication is an unsolicited communication (abstract).

Regarding claim 24, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein said communication comprises adult material (col. 1, lines 43-54).

Regarding claim 25, Paul teaches the method according to claim 22, wherein said step of marking said communication further comprises the step of marking said communication utilizing at least one of: adding text to a subject line; sending a message or note to an e-mail application identifying a particular communication as possibly unwanted; embedding the suspected unwanted communication in another note; changing at least one attribute of a portion of the communication text; changing the color of the subject line; changing non-textual attributes of the communication; adding an icon; adding a symbol; positional marking; marking for investigation; forwarding to a third-party; or issuing a report (figure 4; col. 8, lines 17-34).

Regarding claim 26, Paul teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said step of marking said communication further comprises the step of marking said communication utilizing at least one of: adding text to a subject line; sending a message or note to an e-mail application identifying a particular communication as possibly unwanted; embedding the suspected unwanted communication in another note; changing at least one attribute of a portion of the

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communication text; changing the color of the subject line; changing non-textual attributes of the communication; adding an icon; adding a symbol; positional marking; marking for investigation; forwarding to a third-party; or issuing a report (figure 4; col. 8, lines 17-34).

Regarding claim 27, Paul teaches a method in a data processing system for marking particular types of communications, said method comprising the steps of:

preparing an unsolicited communication (abstract);  
marking said communication as being unsolicited (abstract); and  
sending said communication (col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 11).

28-53 and claims 55-80 are similar to claims 1-26, respectively, therefore are also rejected under the same rationale.

Claims 54 and 81 are similar to claim 27, therefore are also rejected under the same rationale.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alina N Boutah whose telephone number is 571-272-3908. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00 am - 5:00 pm).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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DAVID WILEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100